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A curious poetical tribute to Archimedes, composed by a French mathematician, is recalled by *The Academy* (London). The first calculation of the numerical value of π is ascribed to Archimedes, and, carried out to thirty decimal places, this value is 3.141592653589793238462643383279. Each of the thirty-one words in the quatrain, in order, contains the number of letters given by the corresponding figure in the numerical value of π, as follows:

3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5 3 5
Que j' aime á faire apprendre un nombre utile aux sages
8 9 7 9
Immortel Archimede, artiste ingénieur!
3 2 3 8 4 6 2 6
Qui de ton jugement peut priser la valeur
4 3 3 8 3 2 7 9
Pour moi ton problème eut de pareils avantages.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* adds the following similar "effort" from a German "poet and geometrician:"

3 1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5
Dir o Held, o alter Philosoph, Du Riesen-Genie!
3 5 8 9 7 9 3 2 3 8
Wie viele Tausende bewundern Geister himmlisch wie Du und göttlich!
4 6 2 6 4 3 3 8 3 2 7 9
Noch reiner in Aeonen wird das uns strahlen wie im lichten Morgenrot!

The translation of the French is: "How I love to teach a number useful to the wise immortal Archimedes, artist—engineer! Who can appraise the worth of thy judgment? For me thy problem has equal advantages." The German runs thus: "To thee, O hero, O old philosopher, O giant genius! How many thousand souls wonder, heavenly as thou and divine! Yet clearer in the ages will that stream on us than in the luminous dawn." Neither of these can be said to be very clear, but considering the limitations of their composition they are certainly remarkable, gravely comments the *Literary Digest*. Meanwhile, will some one give us an English version of π?

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Advanced Algebra. By Herbert E. Hawkes, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics in Yale University. Cloth, 8vo., XIV+285 pages. List price, $1.40; mailing price, $1.50. Ginn & Co., Boston, New York, Chicago, London.

An algebra preëminently suited for short college courses should be comprehensive enough to set forth amply all the parts of the science that are recognized as essentials, and it should be terse enough to be covered in a college term without skipping chapters and parts of chapters, and thus interfering with the continuity of the student's development. *Advanced Algebra* is a book of decided merit when judged from this standpoint. The parts of the science usually taught in college freshman algebra courses are presented in less than three hundred pages, and the treatment is, on the whole, exceptionally clear and forceful. The text is full of the laboratory spirit; graphical representations, and graphical methods of solution of equations form an integral part of Professor Hawkes' work, and they are introduced early in the text. Necessarily the brevity of treatment has curtailed fundamental and even indispensable general theory, but the book is primarily aimed to "present in concise but clear form the portions of algebra that are required for entrance to the most exacting universities and technical schools," and it will supply a definite want in this field. G.

The Essentials of Algebra. By Robert J. Aley, Ph. D., and David A. Rothrock, Ph. D., Professors of Mathematics at Indiana University. Chapter XX, Logarithms; 15 pages. Silver, Burdett & Co., New York, Boston, Chicago.

This chapter is bound with the new edition of this successful and in many respects epoch-marking secondary school algebra, at the request of a number of friends of the book who wish to teach the theory of logarithms in their high school courses. The chapter is also to be had in pamphlet form. The main theorems of the subject are developed and a five place table for argument one to one hundred given. The principles find application in a treatment of compound interest and annuities. G.

Elements of Descriptive Geometry. By O. E. Randall, Ph. D,, Professor of Mechanical Drawing, Brown University. 8vo. Semi-flexible cloth. IV+209 pages. List price, $2.00; mailing price, $2.10. Ginn & Co., Boston, New York, Chicago, London.

This work is a text book for colleges and engineering schools. The aim otfhe treatise is to make a clear presentation of the theory of projection and to show its application as a medium of expression. By the discussion and proof of a great variety of problems the author aims to enable the student to make a ready and intelligent use of this medium in the representation of all forms of magnitudes. Since by far the greater part of practical drafting is done from the standpoint of the third quadrant, the principles of descriptive geometry are presented from the standpoint of the same quadrant. It seems to us that Professor Randall's treatise is one of the very best of a beautiful line of texts in this subject which has appeared in the past few years. The principles of the subject are here classified and pedagogically arranged, and are illustrated by numerous figures and drawings. In fact, this is the first treatise on the subject that has come to our notice which makes the illustrative drawing do its full part. Some special features will commend themselves to teachers of mechanical and descriptive drawing:

Free use is made of profile and other supplementary planes of projection. Isometric projection and other forms of one-plane projection are treated as applications of descriptive geometry. A method of locating given parts is incorporated. As a result the work of the drawing and recitation room may be easily and definitely assigned. G.

Transactions of the American Mathematical Society. Published quarterly for the Society by the Macmillan company.

The closing (October) number of Volume 6 of the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* contains the following papers: Maurice Fréchet, "Sur l'écart de deux courbes et sur les courbes limites:" John Eisland, "On a Certain System of Conjugate Lines on a Surface Connected with Euler's Transformation;" L. P. Eisenhart, "Surfaces of constant Curvature and their Transformations;" N. J. Lennes, "Volumes and Areas;" E. O. Lovett, "On a Problem Including that of Several Bodies and Admitting of an Additional Integral;" F. R. Sharpe, "On the Stability of the Motion of a Viscous Liquid;" A. Loewy, "Ueber die Vollständig Reducibeln Gruppen, die zu einer Gruppe Linearer Homogener Substitutionen Gehören;" W. B. Carver, "On the Cayley-Veronese Class of Configurations." This number also contains; Notes and Errata, Volumes 5, 6; Table of Contents, Volume 6.